

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Description of amendments

In response to the Official Action dated July 16, 2003, Applicant amends the application and requests reconsideration. In the Amendment, claims 1-9 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added. Claims 10-18 are now pending and under examination.

Interview summary

Applicant's counsel greatly appreciates the courtesy extended by Examiners MacArthur and Cottingham during the course of an interview conducted on October 8, 2003. In the interview, the Examiners indicated claim 10 is allowable over the cited references but maintained the rejection of claim 1.

Objection to the drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the Examiner stated that, contrary to what is indicated in the specification, the feature "laterally spread open" is not shown in Figure 6 and the feature "unattractive wedge-shaped space" or the "end disk" is not shown in Figure 9.

Applicant respectfully traverses the objections on two alternative grounds.

First, Applicant believes that these features are shown in the drawings. Regarding the feature "unattractive wedge-shaped space" or the "end disk,"

Applicant respectfully submits that, contrary to the statement in the Office Action, the specification does not state that Figure 9 shows these features. Instead, the specification states that Figures 10 and 12 show these features (see page 7, lines 14-19), and the features are indeed shown in Figures 10 and 12. Regarding the term "laterally spread open," Figure 6 clearly shows that, at the location where reference 17 points, there are two plates parallelly arranged, and there is a gap between the two plates. This gap indicates that the two plates are laterally spread open

Second, and alternatively, even assuming for the sake of argument that the features were not shown in the drawings, 37 CFR 1.83(a), which was cited to support the objections to the drawings, only requires that every feature of the invention specified in the claims must be shown in the drawings. The feature "laterally spread open" is not recited in the claims, and the feature "unattractive wedge-shaped space" not only is not recited in the claims but also is not a feature of the present invention. Therefore, the objections to the drawings are improper under 37 CFR 1.83(a).

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103(a)

Claims 1-7 and 11-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 4410157 to Monti. Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Monti. Claims 8, 9, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Monti in view of US 2538483 to Summers.

The cancellation of claims 1-9 renders the rejection of these claims moot. As discussed in the interview, claim 10 is patentable over the cited references. Claims 11-18 are also patentable because they depend from claim 10.

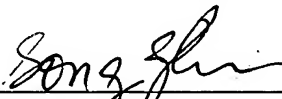
Application No. 10/030,818
Reply dated October 15, 2003
Response to Office Action dated July 16, 2003

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (CAM # 056215.50809US).

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Respectfully submitted,



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